

In view of the change to claim 3, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been overcome and should be removed.

Rejections on the Merits

Claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haviland (U.S. Pat. No. 3,791,667) in view of Breed (U.S. Pat. No. 4,666,182).

Claims 2-4, 14 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Breed in view of Haviland and Merhar (U.S. Pat. No. 3,701,903).

Claims 5, 7, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Breed in view of Haviland and Spies et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,015,162).

Claims 16-19, 21-24, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Breed in view of Spies et al.

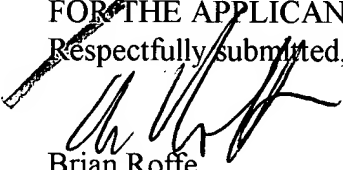
Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haviland in view of Breed and Spies et al.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haviland in view of Breed and Lau et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,273,309).

These rejections will be addressed in an Appeal Brief.

FOR THE APPLICANTS

Respectfully submitted,


Brian Roffe

Reg. No. 35,336

Brian Roffe
366 Longacre Avenue
Woodmere, New York 11598-2417
Tel: (516) 295-1394
Fax: (516) 295-0318